REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 39-56 are presently active in this case. Claims 1-19 were cancelled by a preliminary amendment. The present Amendment adds new Claims 39-56 without introducing any new matter, and cancels Claims 20-38 without prejudice or disclaimer.

The March 23, 2011 Office Action rejected Claims 20-38 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Harada et al. (U.S. Pat. Pub. No. 2003/0007640, now U.S. Pat. No. 7,698,571, hereinafter "Harada"), in view of Montgomery (U.S. Pat. Pub. No. 2002/0141590).

Applicants' Claims 20-38 were cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, and new Claims 39-56 are added without introducing any new matter. In particular, new independent Claim 39 now recite *inter alia* a step of assigning and defining that find non-limiting support in the specification as published with the Publication Number 2008/0025495 at paragraphs [0053]-[0059]. No new matter has been added.

In response to the rejection of Applicants' independent Claim 39 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this rejection and traverse the rejection, as discussed next.

Briefly summarizing, Applicants' independent Claim 39 is directed to a method for securing scrambled data supplied to a plurality of receiver terminals, each of the terminals comprising a plurality of different descrambling modules, each descrambling modules having a specific processing capacity and a specific level of security, the data being previously subdivided into M families, each family comprising N blocks. The method includes the steps of assigning to each family an identification parameter, defining a biunivocal relation between the identification parameter of each family with a key K defined as a function of the

specific processing capacity and the level of security of the descrambling modules for descrambling the blocks of said family, scrambling, at transmission, each block of a family by the key K associated with the identification parameter of the family, and descrambling, at reception, each block of a family by the means of the descrambling module corresponding to the key associated with the identification parameter of said family.

As discussed in Applicants' specification in a non-limiting example, one of the advantages of the features of Claim 39 is the protection against an attack on an individual descrambling module of a receiver terminal, because if the attack was successful, only an incomplete file can be reconstructed, because the attacking entity lacks the parts that were processed by the other descrambling modules of the same receiver terminal. Consequently, the attacked and pirated file will be severely degraded comparing to the original file, and will not be executable. Please note that this discussion related to the features of Applicants' independent Claim 39 is provided for explanatory purposes only, and shall not be used to limit the scope of the claims.

Turning now to the applied reference, Harada is directed to a system having a mobile phone 300 with a reception unit that receives a digital work from an external distribution server 200, an internal storage area 303 for storing the digital work, a playback unit 304 that plays back the digital work, and a unique information storage area 310 for storing information that is unique to the mobile phone 300. (Harada, Abstract, Figs. 1 and 3.) Moreover, in Harada's mobile phone 300, an encryption unit 320 encrypts the digital work using the unique information, and a decryption unit 340 decrypts, using the unique information, the encrypted digital work having been read from the recording medium device 400. (Harada, Fig. 3, Abstract, ¶¶ [0091], [0119], [0128].) In addition, Harada's write unit 330 writes the encrypted digital work into the removable recording medium device 400; and also has a read unit 350 that reads the encrypted digital work from the recording medium

device 400. (Harada, Fig. 3, ¶ [0147]). It is emphasized in Harada that a unique information

storage area 310 is used for storing information that is unique to the mobile phone 300, and

thereby there is a unique decryption unit that decrypts the encrypted information based on the

pre-stored "unique information" of the unique information storage area 310, to generate

decrypted content. (See e.g., Harada, Abstract, ¶¶ [0135]-[0136]). However, Harada fails to

teach that these are a plurality of descrambling modules in a receiver terminal, the steps of

assigning to each family an identification parameter, and defining a biunivocal relation

between the identification parameter of each family with a key K defined as a function of the

specific processing capacity and the level of security of the descrambling modules for

descrambling the blocks of said family, as required by Applicants' new Claim 39. As

discussed above, in Harada the content obtaining unit 302 of the mobile phone 300 decrypts

the content based on the pre-stored "unique information" of the unique information storage

area 310. Therefore, Harada fails to teach all the features of Applicants' independent Claim

39.

The reference Montgomery, used by the pending Office Action to reject the features

of Applicants' independent claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), fails to remedy the deficiencies

of Harada, even if we assume that these references can be combined. Montgomery is

directed to a method for producing a data stream using rotating cryptographic key.

(Montgomery, Abstract, ¶ [0035].) However, Montgomery fails to teach the steps of

assigning to each family an identification parameter, and defining a biunivocal relation

between the identification parameter of each family with a key K defined as a function of the

specific processing capacity and the level of security of the descrambling modules for

descrambling the blocks of said family, as required by Applicants' new Claim 39.

Therefore, even if the combination of Harada and Montgomery is assumed to be

proper, the cited passages of the combination fails to teach every element of Applicants'

Claim 39. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully traverse, and request reconsideration of this rejection based on these references.
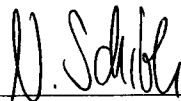
Independent Claims 48 and 50 recite features that are analogous to the features that have been are argued above with respect to independent Claim 39, although they are different in scope and/or directed to different statutory categories. Accordingly, for the reasons stated above for the patentability of Claim 39, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections of Claims 48 and 50, and the rejections of all associated dependent claims, are also believed to be overcome.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal Allowance. A Notice of Allowance for Claims 39-56 is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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